Heavenly Children

Imam as-Sadiq (A)

8

The Cheerful Boy

SUGGESTED AGES 7+

KISA KIDS PUBLICATIONS
Under the Guidance of Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

Disclaimer: Religious texts have ***not*** been translated verbatim so as to meet the developmental and comprehension needs of children.

Copyright © 2016; 2019; 2020; 2023 by Al-Kisa Foundation; SABA Global

All rights reserved. First edition 2016. Second edition 2019. Third edition 2020. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022921416

For permission requests, please write to the publisher at the address below.

Kisa Kids Publications
4415 Fortran Court
San Jose, CA 95134
www.kisakids.org
www.alkisafoundation.org
info@kisakids.org

Imam as-Sadiq (A)

8

Heavenly Children

The Cheerful Boy

Kisa Kids Publications

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the beloved Imām of our time (ʿaj).
May Allah (swt) hasten his reappearance and help us to become his true companions.

Original Author

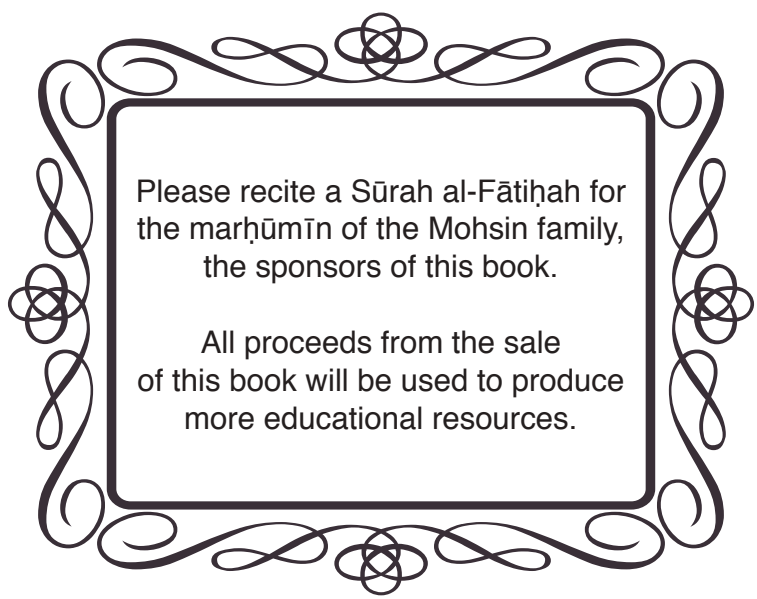
Abul Faḍl Hādī Manish

Acknowledgments

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ): On the Day of Resurrection, the ink of the scholars will be weighed up against the blood of the martyrs, and the ink of the scholars will be heavier than the blood of the martyrs.
Nahj al-Faṣāḥah, Saying #3222.

True reward lies with Allah (swt), but we would like to sincerely thank Shaykh Salim Yusufali, Brother Aliakbar Shaheidari, Sisters Sabika Mithani, Fatemah Mithani, Amna Hussain, Asieh Zarghami, Zahra Sabur, Sajeda Merchant, Kisae Nazar, Sarah Assaf, Nadia Dossani, Fathema Abidi, Fatemeh Eslami, Fatima Hussain, Fatemah Meghji, Abeda Khimji, Sakeena Kalyan, Zehra Abbas, and Rumina Hashmani. We would especially like to thank Nainava Publications for their artwork and contributions.

May Allah (swt) bless them in this world and the next.


Please recite a Sūrah al-Fātiḥah for the marḥūmīn of the Mohsin family, the sponsors of this book.
All proceeds from the sale of this book will be used to produce more educational resources.

Transliteration Chart

Arabic terms in this book have been transliterated according to the following guidelines*:

ء	a, i, or u (initial form)
ء	ʾ (medial or final form)
ا	a
ب	b
ت	t
ث	th
ج	j
ح	ḥ
خ	kh
د	d
ذ	dh
ر	r
ز	z
س	s
ش	sh
ص	ṣ
ض	ḍ
ط	ṭ
ظ	ẓ
ع	ʿ
غ	gh
ف	f
ق	q
ك	k
ل	l
م	m
ن	n
ه	h
و	w
ي	y

ـَ	a
ـِ	i
ـُ	u
ـّ	double letter
آ / ـَا / ىٰ	ā
ـِي	ī
ـُو	ū

*Please note that due to limitations, the transliteration is not 100% accurate in capturing tajwīd rules.

Preface

Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ):

Nurture and raise your children in the best way. Raise them with the love of the Prophets and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa).

Literature is an influential form of media that often shapes the thoughts and views of an entire generation. Therefore, in order to establish an Islamic foundation for the future generations, there is a dire need for compelling Islamic literature. Over the past several years, this need has become increasingly prevalent throughout Islamic centers and schools everywhere. Due to the growing dissonance between parents, children, society, and the teachings of Islam and the Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa), this need has become even more pressing. Al-Kisa Foundation, along with its subsidiary, Kisa Kids Publications, was conceived in an effort to help bridge this gap with the guidance of ʿulamāʾ and the help of educators. We would like to make this a communal effort and platform. Therefore, we sincerely welcome constructive feedback and help in any capacity.

The goal of the *Heavenly Children* series is to foster the love of Ahl al-Bayt (ʿa) in children and to help them establish the 14 Maʿṣūmīn as their role models. We hope that you and your children enjoy these books and use them as a means to achieve this goal, inshāʾAllāh. We pray to Allah to give us the strength and *tawfīq* to perform our duties and responsibilities.

With Duʿās,
Nabi R. Mir (Abidi)

About the Board ʿĀlim

Moulana Nabi R. Mir (Abidi) is a scholar, an educator, a father, and an enthusiast for creating educational infrastructure and Islamic resources for the benefit of the global community. Always wanting to think 'outside of the box' by supporting the creation of innovative materials to engage young readers to pick up Islamic books, interact with Qurʾānic games, learn from the Steps to Perfection Curriculum, and begin their life-long journey of holistic education.

Being a dedicated student and graduate of *Darse Khārij* from the *Ḥawzah* (the Highest Level of Islamic Studies in the Seminary), Moulana Abidi knows the value of Islamic education. Also, having grown up in India, and now residing in the United States, he has had the honor of traveling to various communities and meeting many community leaders. He values the importance of collaboration and working together to optimize potentials, and to create open source platforms so that information and resources are available and accessible to everyone around the world.

You, dear reader, are now part of the Al-Kisa family.
Share the word, and join the mission.

“Ahmad, do you remember the names of all of the Ma’ṣūmīn we will be visiting in Medina?” Ahmad’s father asked him. Baba, Mama, and Ahmad had been talking together about their plans to visit the fourteen Maʿṣūmīn.

“I know, I know!” Ahmad said. “Let me think. I remember we will be visiting Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ), Sayyidah Fāṭimah (ʿa), Imām Ḥasan (ʿa) and Imām Sajjād (ʿa)... Oh, and Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa) inshāʾAllāh!”

“Great job remembering them all! There is one more Ma’sūm we will be visiting in Medina: Imām Ja’far aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa). He is our sixth Imām and is also buried in Jannatul Baqī. Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) was born on the 17th of Rabīʿ al-Awwal and was martyred on the 25th of Shawwāl,” Mama explained.

“He must be the son of Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa), right?” Ahmad asked.

“Yes, he was the son of Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa) and Haḍrat Umm Farwah,” she said.

“Was he like the other Imāms? Brave, kind, and wise?” Ahmad asked.

Baba smiled, “Most definitely! Remember how Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa) spread knowledge for everyone to reach?” Ahmad nodded.

“Imām Ja’far aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) continued that work and, alḥamdulillāh, because of peaceful conditions, he was able to do even more. He held classes and taught subjects like fiqh, akhlāq, math, and science. By knowing more about these subjects, we understand more about the great signs and miracles of Allah!”

“He had many famous students like Hishām son of Ḥakam, Abū Ḥanīfah, and Jābir son of Ḥayān. In fact, over four thousand scholars learned from the great teachings of Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa)!” said Mama.

“Wow! That’s a lot of scholars! I wish I could have been his student!” Ahmad exclaimed.

“Yes, it would have been an honor to learn from him,” Mama said. “Even as a young child, he would teach others! Listen, I will tell you a story I know from his childhood."

It was a still, dark night. Muḥammad found himself uneasily looking left and right as he swiftly, stealthily approached the door. He peered over his shoulder and squinted into the dark. Was anyone watching him? He made certain he was alone, and then knocked on the door.

I hope no one sees me visiting Imām Muḥammad al-Bāqir (ʿa), or the caliph will kill me! he thought.

The latch on the door creaked, and the door slowly opened.

A bright and welcoming face appeared in the doorway. “Salāmun ʿalaykum,” Muḥammad greeted him respectfully.

“Wa ʿalaykum salām” the Imām (ʿa) replied. “Is that you Muḥammad?” he asked kindly. “Please come in!” The Imām (ʿa) opened the door wider, and Muḥammad stepped inside. As he entered, Muḥammad stole one last glance down the dim city streets behind him. He quickly and quietly shut the door.

Muḥammad breathed a sigh of relief. He finally felt safe now that he was in the Imām's presence. Now, he could relax. He followed the Imām (ʿa) and his son into a small sitting room.

As they walked in, the little child busied himself with a toy stick that had a red tassel hanging from it. The Imām (ʿa) walked over to his son and knelt down next to him. "May my parents be sacrificed for you!* Are you enjoying your game?" he asked with a smile.

The handsome child grinned widely and replied, "Yes!"

*In our ḥadīth and duʿās, when someone wants to show the highest level of loyalty and love towards another person, they use this expression.

Muḥammad watched as the Imām (ʿa) caressed the young child's hair. The Imām's face was full of love and affection for his child. Muḥammad could see that clearly his son was very beloved to him.

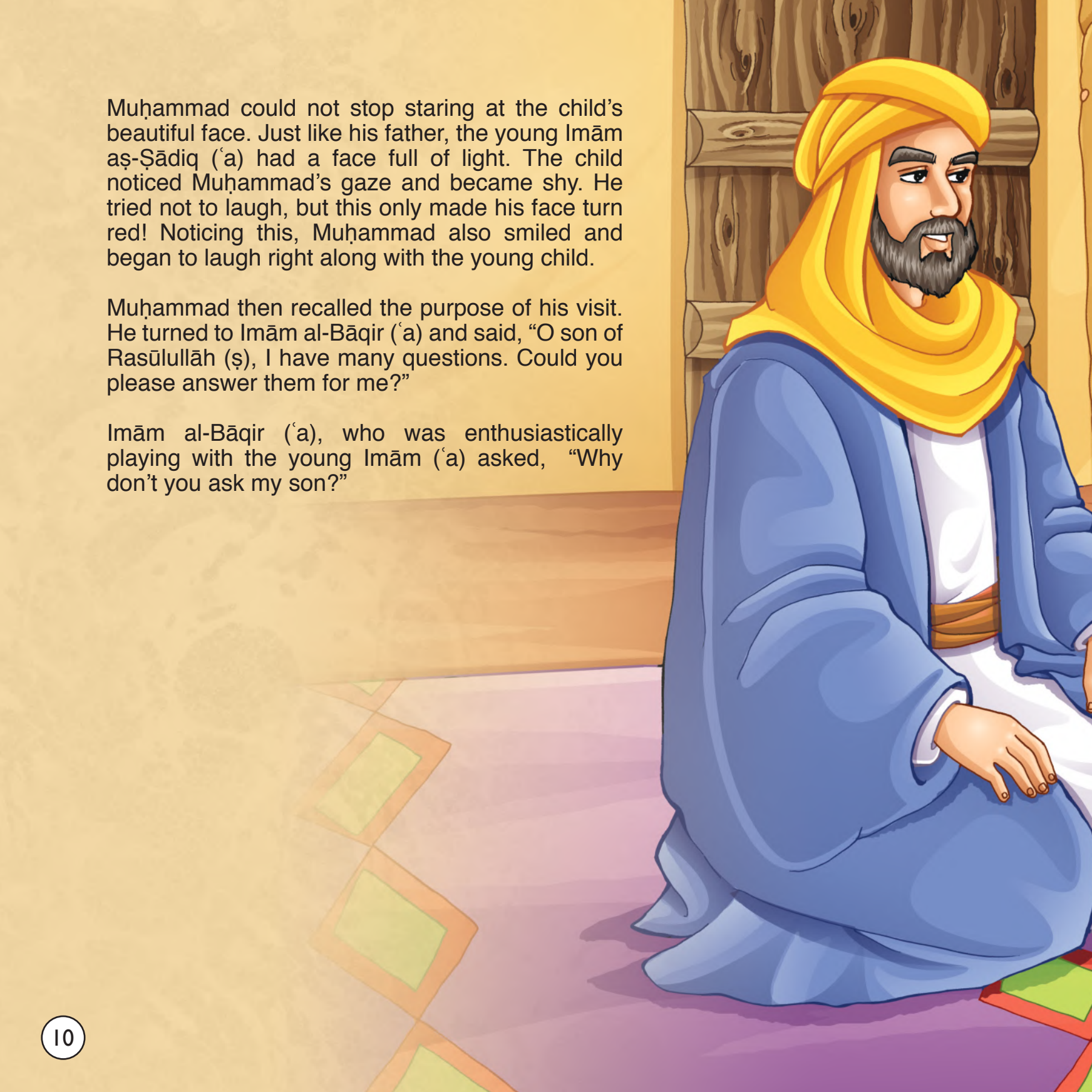
The Imām (ʿa) turned towards Muḥammad, saying, "Dear Muḥammad, this child, Jaʿfar aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa), will be the Imām after me. Obey him and benefit from him. I swear by Allah that he is patient and truthful. He has been given the same beautiful title, 'aṣ-Ṣādiq,' as the Noble Prophet (ṣ)!" Muḥammad listened carefully to what his Imām was telling him.

The Imām (ʿa) continued, "Allah will help his followers in this world and the next, and Allah will remove His blessings from his enemies."

Muḥammad could not stop staring at the child's beautiful face. Just like his father, the young Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) had a face full of light. The child noticed Muḥammad's gaze and became shy. He tried not to laugh, but this only made his face turn red! Noticing this, Muḥammad also smiled and began to laugh right along with the young child.

Muḥammad then recalled the purpose of his visit. He turned to Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa) and said, "O son of Rasūlullāh (ṣ), I have many questions. Could you please answer them for me?"

Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa), who was enthusiastically playing with the young Imām (ʿa) asked, "Why don't you ask my son?"



This surprised Muḥammad. He thought, *this boy is only a child! How is he going to answer my questions?*

Nonetheless, he knew that the Imām (ʿa) knew best, and he trusted him. Besides, the Imām (ʿa) was his teacher, and he knew that he should follow his Imām and teacher's advice.

As Muḥammad was getting ready to ask his questions to the young Imām (ʿa), he paused and realized he had forgotten them all! He rubbed his long black beard, trying to remember at least one of them. As he was deep in thought, his eyes caught the eyes of the giggling child and he began to smile. That made him think of a new question.

“My master, where does laughter come from?” he asked.

The young child stopped laughing and cheerfully replied, “Dear Muḥammad, emotions come from the heart; sadness comes from the liver; breath comes from the lungs; and laughter comes from the spleen.”

Muḥammad was shocked! He had asked one question of this young child and had received four answers! He was so happy to hear this that once again, he began to laugh, and the young Imām (ʿa) laughed with him.

Muḥammad felt blessed to have been able to experience how special this young child was! He stood up, kissed the head of the young Imām (ʿa), and then sat back down to enjoy dates and bread with the Imāms (ʿa).

After some time, Muḥammad stood up to leave. Imām al-Bāqir (ʿa) and Imām aṣ-Ṣādiq (ʿa) walked him to the door and bid him farewell.

As Muḥammad strode home, the dark streets were overcome with a strange silence, but if one listened carefully, every now and again, one could hear Muḥammad's quiet laughter as he pondered over what the young Imām (ʿa) had just taught him.

Biḥār al-Anwār, Vol. 47, P. 15

Glossary

(ṣ): Peace and blessings be upon Prophet Muḥammad and his family

(swt): All Glory belongs to God, the Glorified and Exalted

(ʿa): Peace and blessings be upon him/her

(ʿaj): May God hasten his reappearance

Ahl al-Bayt: Divinely appointed family members of Prophet Muḥammad (ṣ)

Akhlāq: Islamic morals and ethics

al-Fātiḥah: The first *sūrah* of the Qurʾān, which is commonly recited and sent as a gift of prayer for the deceased

Alḥamdulillāh: All praise is for God

Baba: Father

Duʿāʾ: Supplication; a deep connection and communication between an individual and God

Fiqh: Islamic Jurisprudence

Imām: A divinely appointed leader, sometimes refers to a spiritual leader

InshāʾAllāh: God-willing

Kaʿbah: The most Sacred Mosque for Muslims, situated in Mecca and is the direction of prayer

Mama: Mother

Marḥūmīn: Someone who has passed away

MāshāʾAllāh: As God wishes

Maʿṣūmīn: One who is inerrant (free of all sins, flaws, and impurities) through the divine protection and knowledge of Allah

Qurʾān: The holy book of Muslims

Rasūlullāh: A title referring to the Noble Prophet Muḥammad

Salāmun ʿalaykum: Peace be upon you

SubḥānAllāh: All Glory and Praise belongs to God

Tawfīq: Divine blessings from God (Allah) that give one the opportunity and ability to thrive towards success

Wa ʿalaykum salām: And peace be upon you too

Ziyārah: Visiting the house of Allah, grave of the Noble Prophet, Imāms and other important personalities

ʿUlamāʾ: Scholars

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

AL-KISA FOUNDATION

UNDER THE CLOAK OF GUIDANCE AND MERCY

ISBN 9781683120391